

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05  
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02  
SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 ACDA-12 /106 W  
-----106264 251136Z /14

P R 251021Z AUG 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9547  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGUI  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRAZZAVILLE  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY KIGALI PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LISBON  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 3766

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDIP, PBOR, AO, CG, OAU  
SUBJ: OAU VERIFICATION COMMISSION FOR ZAIRE/ANGOLA BORDER

REFS: A) STATE 200867; B) STATE 211378; C) ADDIS 3711 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. ACTING OAU SEC GEN, DR PETER ONU, SAYS THAT THE  
ZAIRE/ANGOLA BORDER VERIFICATION COMMISSION HAS NOT YET AD-  
VANCED SIGNIFICANTLY BEYOND THE CONCEPTUAL STAGE AND THE  
INITIATIVE FOR MOVING THE PROPOSAL AHEAD LIES WITH ANGOLA  
AND ZAIRE, NOT THE OAU. END SUMMARY.

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1. OAU ASST SEC GEN FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS (AND TEMPORARILY  
ACTING SEC GEN), DR PETER ONU, WAS IN ADDIS ABABA BRIEFLY AUG  
24 BEFORE LEAVING AGAIN AUG 25 TO MEDIATE IN THE BENIN-GABON  
DISPUTE. DURING AUG 24 CALL ON HIM BY THE AMBASSADOR, ONU  
PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF THE OAU  
BORDER VERIFICATION COMMISSION, FOR WHICH HE IS THE SENIOR

OAU OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE.

2. ONU SAID THAT THE IDEA OF A BORDER VERIFICATION COMMISSION WAS AN ANGOLAN/ZAIRIAN INITIATIVE, NOT ONE FROM THE OAU. ANGOLA AND ZAIRE AGREED THAT SUCH A COMMISSION SHOULD BE UNDER OAU AUSPICES AND THAT IS WHY THE OAU IS INVOLVED. PRIMARY ACTION RESPONSIBILITY TO LAUNCH THE COMMISSION REMAINS WITH THE TWO COUNTRIES MOST DIRECTLY INVOLVED. ONU TOLD US THAT THE MAIN CHANNEL BETWEEN ANGOLA AND ZAIRE TO THE OAU ON ALL MATTERS RELATING TO THE BORDER VERIFICATION COMMISSION WOULD BE THROUGH THE ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR IN ADDIS ABABA (NZEZA KILUANGU). (COMMENT: ANGOLA DOES NOT MAINTAIN A DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN ADDIS ABABA). HE SAID THAT NOTHING IS PRESENTLY BEING DONE BY THE OAU SECRETARIAT TO ORGANIZE THE COMMISSION, PENDING FURTHER WORD FROM ZAIRE AND ANGOLA.

3. ONU TOLD US THAT TO DATE NEITHER HE NOR THE ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR HAD RECEIVED ANY DETAILED INFORMATION ON WHICH TO START WORK. HE PROVIDED US WITH HIS PRELIMINARY UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONCEPT OF THE BORDER VERIFICATION COMMISSION IN THE FOLLOWING TERMS:

A. FOUR AFRICAN COUNTRIES WOULD PROVIDE PERSONNEL TO THE COMMISSION: TWO PROPOSED BY ANGOLA AND TWO BY ZAIRE. ANGOLA HAS PROPOSED NIGERIA AND CAMEROON; ZAIRE HAS CONSIDERED TWO COUNTRIES, INCLUDING RWANDA, BUT ITS CHOICE IS NOT YET CLEAR. CONFIDENTIAL

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B. THE BORDER VERIFICATION COMMISSION WILL BE PRIMARILY STAFFED BY MILITARY. NO CIVILIAN OAU SECRETARIAT PRESENCE ON THE GROUND IS FORESEEN.

C. THE GENERAL CONCEPT IS TO ESTABLISH POSTS AT CERTAIN KEY LOCATIONS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE FRONTIER. INITIALLY, AT LEAST, POSTS IN ZAIRE WILL BE STAFFED BY MILITARY FROM THE COUNTRIES DESIGNATED BY ANGOLA AND VICE VERSA. THESE PERSONNEL WILL BE ROTATED TO POSTS ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE FRONTIER AFTER A CERTAIN TIME.

D. ONU FORESEES THE BORDER VERIFICATION COMMISSION AS A SHORT TERM EFFORT - PERHAPS SIX MONTHS - WHILE EFFORTS ARE UNDERTAKEN TO REMOVE REFUGEES FROM CLOSE PROXIMITY TO BOTH SIDES OF THE BORDER. DURING THIS FAIRLY BRIEF PERIOD, ONU SAID THAT HE WOULD HOPE THAT THE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ESTABLISHED RECENTLY BETWEEN ANGOLA AND ZAIRE WOULD PERMIT AN IMPROVEMENT IN THEIR RELATIONS TO THE POINT THAT A BORDER VERIFICATION COMMISSION WAS NO LONGER REQUIRED.

E. ONU COMMENTED THAT THE COSTS OF ESTABLISHING AND MAINTAIN-

ING A BORDER VERIFICATION COMMISSION WOULD BE HIGH: TOO HIGH FOR ZAIRE AND ANGOLA TO FINANCE, INAPPROPRIATE FOR THE COUNTRIES ON THE COMMISSION TO PAY FOR, AND, HE CONCLUDED WITH A SMILE, THE OAU WAS "A POOR ORGANIZATION."

4. AS THE OAU OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR THE OAU'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE PROPOSAL,. OAU'S SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT WEEKS MAY PREVENT HIM FROM DEVOTING MUCH ATTENTION TO IT. ONU LEAVES ADDIS ABABA AUG 25 FOR LIBREVILLE, COTONOU AND CONAKRY TO MEDIATE THE BENIN-GABON DISPUTE IN A CONFERENCE BEGINNING IN CONAKRY ON AUG 28 (SEPTEL). HE WILL RETURN TO ADDIS ABABA NLT SEPT 5 FOR THE FORMAL INSTALLATION OF THE NEW OAU SEC GEN AND BE HERE THROUGH THE ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT'S CELEBRATION OF THE 4TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REVOLUTION, WHICH  
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BEGINS SEPT 12 AND INVOLVES A LARGE "INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE" FROM SEPT 14-17. HE IS THEN GOING TO THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN NEW YORK, ARRIVING BEFORE PRESIDENT NIMEIRI'S ADDRESS SCHEDULED FOR SEPT 27. ONU WILL REMAIN AT THE UN WITH PRESIDENT NIMEIRI.  
CHAPIN

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## Message Attributes

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